

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 12711 301149Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2306

S E C R E T PARIS 12711

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, VN, US
SUBJECT: US/VIETNAM RELATIONS: FRENCH PERCEPTION OF
VIETNAMESE VIEWS OF PARIS TALKS

1. QUAI DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS LABOULAYE TOLD
EMBOFF APRIL 29 THAT PHAM VAN DONG HAD TOLD THE FRENCH
BASICALLY WHAT HE HAD SAID IN HIS VARIOUS REMARKS TO THE
PRESS ABOUT THE UPCOMING US/VN TALKS IN PARIS. HE HAD
SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC, BUT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE US
POSITION AND WHAT ACTUALLY EMERGED IN THE COURSE OF THE
TALKS. (LABOULAYE SPOKE AS THOUGH HE WAS AWARE OF WHAT
HAD TRANSPIRED ON THIS SUBJECT EVEN IN THE TETE-A-TETE
CONVERSATIONS DONG HAD WITH GISCARD AND BARRE.)
LABOULAYE ADDED THAT HE HAD VERY LONG CONVERSATIONS
WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH AND FOUND
HIM SOMEWHAT LESS NONCOMMITTAL. THACH WAS CLEARLY
OPTIMISTIC AND THOUGHT THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE NEW
ADMINISTRATION WOULD PERMIT COMING TO AN AGREEMENT
AND THAT THERE WERE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR US ECONOMIC
GENEROSITY.

2. WE SHALL BE TALKING WITH OTHER QUAI OFFICERS IN
GREATER DETAIL ABOUT THE VISIT, PARTICULARLY THE
BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, BUT WE DOUBT THAT WE SHALL GET
SECRET

SECRET

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VERY MUCH MORE CONCERNING VIETNAMESE REMARKS ON US/VN
TALKS. OTHER QUAI OFFICERS HAVE TOLD US EVEN LESS ON
THIS SUBJECT THAN LABOULAYE.
GAMMON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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